

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-04 DRC-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 /066 W

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R 160510Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1336

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH VS VN

SUBJ: PRC COMMENT ON VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS

SUMMARY: NCNA HAS CARRIED TEXTS OF THE OCTOBER 8 AND 11 PRG
AND DRVN STATEMENTS ON THE SOUTH VIETNAM SITUATION ALONG WITH
EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. IN CONTRAST TO THE

VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS, THE CHINESE EDITORIAL IS MUCH Milder IN
ITS TREATMENT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND STRESSES
INSTEAD THE NECESSITY FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE THIEU GOVERN-

MENT. THE EDITORIAL ALSO PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE BUT INDICATES THAT THE VIETNAMESE WILL WIN FURTHER
VICTORIES ON THEIR OWN. THE PRC EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY THE
MINIMUM FORMAL REACTION WHICH THE CHINESE COULD HAVE GIVEN
THESE TWO STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. NCNA CARRIED THE FULL TEXTS OF BOTH THE OCTOBER 8 PRG AND THE OCTOBER 11 DRVN STATEMENTS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. NCNA ALSO CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THE PRG AMBASSADOR TO PEKING'S OCTOBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE PRG STATEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL ON OCTOBER 15 PROVIDES AUTHORITATIVE, IF SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED, SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENTS. AS USUAL, THE EDITORIAL IS CONSIDERABLY Milder IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE USG THAN IS EITHER OF THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS, AND FOCUSES ITS ATTACK ON THE THIEU GOVERNMENT.

2. BOTH VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS AND IN IDENTICAL DEMANDS: FIRST, THE "DEFINITIVE AND COMPLETE TERMINATION" OF US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS AND, SECONDLY, THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND "HIS GANG". IN CONTRAST, THE CHINESE EDITORIAL, WHILE INDICATING A "TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED" CONTINUED US INVOLVEMENT, STRESSES PRIMARILY THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU. THE EDITORIAL STATES ONLY THAT THE USG SHOULD "SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENT EVERY PROVISION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT". THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE "CHINESE PEOPLE FIRMLY SUPPORT" THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BUT CLEARLY CONTINUES THE STANDARD PRC LINE ON THE NEED FOR SELF-RELIANCE BY INDICATING THAT "WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED" THAT THE VIETNAMESE WILL "WIN FRESH VICTORIES IN THE STRUGGLE".

3. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, NCNA HAS BEEN CARRYING NUMEROUS ITEMS ON POLITICAL DISSATISFACTION WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM IN WHICH IT HAS EMPHASIZED THIEU'S LACK OF POPULARITY, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND "LAND-GRABBING" AND OTHER ALLEGED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES. IN MANY OF THESE ARTICLES, THE US WAS REPROVED FOR ITS CONTINUED ROLE IN VIETNAM BUT THE PRIMARY CONDEMNATION WAS CONSISTENTLY RESERVED FOR THE THIEU GOVERNMENT. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES THIS PATTERN AND DEVOTES ONLY NINE LINES STRICTLY TO THE US. THE THIEU GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST, IS CASTIGATED FOR ITS REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, PURSUIT OF THE PACIFICATION POLICY, LAND-GRABBING, TRAMPLING ON THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, AND PERSECUTION

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AND SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

4. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRG AND DRVN UNDOUBTEDLY PLACE ON THEIR STATEMENTS, THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY THE MINIMUM FORMAL REACTION WHICH THE PRC COULD PROVIDE. ITS RATHER MODERATE TONES IN ATTACKING THE US, WHICH SEEM ALMOST DOCILE COMPARED TO THE MORE BELLICOSE LANGUAGE EMPLOYED BY THE VIETNAMESE, INDICATE A CONTINUATION OF THE

PRC'S CAUTIOUS AND RESTRAINED TREATMENT OF THE US ROLE IN
INDOCHINA.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK01336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-1095
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741043/aaaabkja.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC COMMENT ON VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS SUMMARY: NCNA HAS CARRIED TEXTS OF THE OCTOBER 8 AND 11 PRG
TAGS: PFOR, CH, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005